

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
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SUBJ: GULF: NO IMMEDIATE ACTION ANTICIPATED

REF: A. LIMA 6902 B. LIMA 7244

1. ACTING CHIEF ECON SECTION EVENING AUG 17 ASKED ENERGY AND MINES VICE MINISTER SAETTONE ABOUT STATUS OF DRAFT DECREE LAW DESIGNED TO PERMIT GULF TO RESUME OPERATING IN PERU (REF A). HE NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN TWO WEEKS SINCE SAETTONE HAD TOLD HIM THAT LEGISLATION HAD ADVANCED SUFFICIENTLY WITHIN GOP TO BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND INQUIRED WHETHER MEASURE WOULD BE APPROVED AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (AUG 22.) SAETTONE RESPONDED THAT DRAFT LAW IS INDEED READY TO GO TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT THAT MINES MINISTER SANCHEZ HAS NOT PRESSED FOR ITS CONSIDERATION FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, NATIONWIDE MINERS' STRIKE HAS REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MINISTER'S ATTENTION. SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE MINISTER DOESN'T BELIEVE MOMENT IS POLITICALLY OPPORTUNE TO ASK COUNCIL TO APPROVE DRAFT LAW IN VIEW OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CORRUPTION WITHIN GOP DURING LAST TEN YEARS (REF B). SAETTONE WAS NOT WILLING TO GIVE
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HIS OPINION ON WHEN DRAFT LAW WOULD BE FORWARDED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LIMITING HIMSELF ONLY TO SAY THAT GOP WANTS TO APPROVE LEGISLATION AND WILL DO SO AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

2. ON AUG 18 LOCAL GULF LAWYER FERRERO INFORMED ACTING

CHIEF ECON SECTION THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH BOTH SANCHEZ AND SAETTONE REGARDING PROGRESS OF DRAFT LAW ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SINCE BEGINNING OF AUGUST. HE SAID BOTH OFFICIALS HAD MADE SAME POINTS (PARA 1) ABOVE TO HIM TO EXPLAIN FACT THAT DRAFT DECREE LAW HAS NOT YET GONE TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. FERRERO NOTED THAT HE FOUND THESE ARGUMENTS CONVINCING, POINTING OUT THAT EARLIER IN WEEK THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS STILL FORMULATING ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS, HAD SPENT 5 HOURS DEBATING THE 1974 JAPANESE/PERUVIAN CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-ANDEAN OIL PIPELINES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, FERRERO INDICATED, HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH GOP MAY HAVE INTENTION OF APPROVING DRAFT LAW IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE IT FINDS POLITICAL WILL TO DO SO. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM GULF OFFICIALS IN U.S. THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT GOP TO ACT ON LEGISLATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: WE SHARE FERRERO'S ASSESSMENT THAT GOP IS UNLIKELY TO ACT SOON. WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS AT EVERY APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY USG INTEREST IN SEEING LEGISLATION APPROVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE BELIEVE GOP WILL MOVE ONLY WHEN IT FEELS SAFE AND WILL NOT BE GREATLY INFLUENCED FURTHER BY OUR REPRESENTATIONS. END COMMENT.

4. FERRERO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT AUGUST 24 AND 25, AND WE HAVE RECOMMENDED HE VISIT ARA/AND TO DISCUSS ISSUE. DEPARTMENT MAY CONTACT FERRERO THROUGH PERUVIAN EMBASSY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECON 8/21/79. SHLAUDEMAM

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